

WASHINGTON CRITIC

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WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 7, 1890.

SPEAKING OF MENTAL PHOTOGRAPHY, the new rules of the House are an excellent likeness of Speaker Reed's thinking.

Dr. M. Dewey could only be induced to let his vocal exuberance go to sleep for a few weeks, the long suffering leader of the New York daily newspapers would be grateful.

NOW THAT THE Republicans have everything in their own hands, the man with the subsidy scheme is on route to Washington at a rate of speed which makes his coat-tails look like a back porch.

THE KANSAS FARMERS are raising corn for fuel. Between protection which closes foreign markets against their corn and prohibition which closes the home market, the Kansas farmers ought to be kept pretty hot without any other fuel.

MURAT HALSTEAD explains that the ballot-box story was published in his paper prematurely because he could not hold it back. We have always believed Mr. Halstead to be an upright man, whose greatest fault is that he will not wear a breechin.

AN EFFORT IS BEING MADE to introduce the study of political science into the public schools of New York, but has not yet been announced whether the intention is to use Tom Platt in the capacity of teacher or as a subject for elicit lectures.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN the amount of money Chisler says he has raised for a world's fair and the amount she has actually raised, would pay for the necessary buildings and leave a margin for the purchase of a few clusters of nice, ripe Congressmen.

THAT PITTSBURGH SCHEME, whereby the edge-toed trade is to be monopolized and parceled out to different concerns, will give work to a great many honest laboring men—such men, for example, as carpenters, who will have plenty of work—hard work at that—to get tools.

THE VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE is to be asked to appropriate \$10,000 for the use of the destitute farmers in Greenville County. This is not a great deal of money—hardly enough, we should say, to tide the poor farmers over until the party in power can give the tariff another boost and make them all rich and comfortable.

IT IS PLAIN THAT there is a secret force behind the deliberations of the American Industrial and Shipping League. Some weeks before Congress met, a number of influential journals throughout the country and several magazines published exhaustive approvals of the Subsidy bill which Senator Frye is now nursing. For weeks we have heard phrases proving the need of subsidy to revive our commercial grandeur on the coast. As a sort of authoritative stamp upon all these specious pleadings, the American Industrial and Shipping League comes along to advocate the carrying of the mails in American steamships to be subsidized at a rate regardless of what vessels of other nations are willing to carry them for.

THIS IS THE expression of no popular desire. Could we look deep enough into the inspirations of such writings and resolutions we should see the open purse and disburthing hand of monopoly.

WHAT ADVANTAGE, pray, can the people derive from granting subsidies in excess of what is already paid for ocean mail service? The spokesmen of the subsidy scheme pretend to think the word subsidy an unfortunate one; that, far from meaning legislative wickedness, its true definition is beneficent to ocean trade. It is well to remember that subsidies are not given for the industrial or other betterment of any co-operating mass of persons, but to individuals and syndicates of men who are, with wholly unwarranted confidence, expected to turn the gifts of the Government to the advantage of the people. References are not required to upset this presumption.

AN OCEAN COMMERCE based upon such a policy must be fictitious. If it were honestly profitable to traverse the seas, exchanging the wares and products of the nation with those of other lands, our shipping would not be in such a desperate condition to-day, and we would not see a lot of class millionaires, represented by a political party in power, trying to break into the public treasury. Give us first the true stimulus to ocean trade, our superior resources and our unerring inventive genius into the competitive world, by opening our own doors to competition. With tariff laws approximating free trade there could be no excuse for the existence of subsidy wolves. Our own ships would be carrying our own mails, perfectly satisfied with the compensation now paid elsewhere.

MR. EDMUNDS' INVENTION. When Senator Edmunds invented the form of government under which residents of the District of Columbia live, he tried to make it non-partisan. His need to say that he very thoroughly failed. Nothing in government is non-partisan.

MR. EDMUNDS provided for two Civil Commissioners, with the implied understanding that there should be one of each party. Then there was to be an Engineer Commissioner, chosen from

the regular Army, who was to be of no politics. He was to hold the balance between the two Civil Commissioners and secure a non-partisan administration. That balance wheel was just where the failure came in.

There has never been an Engineer Commissioner who was a devotee of politics, so we have changes of the balance wheel when there is a change of masters at the White House. Engineer officers are just as human as any of the Supreme Court and the members of the Electoral Commission. We have, and always have had, a partisan executive government of the District. Perhaps it is well that there is even a party sense of responsibility.

A GOOD BEGINNING. The colored convention which has just adjourned sets a lively pace for its constituency. Should the leaders succeed in driving a nail in the direction they have taken, and with the speed they promise at the start, the best possible results should obtain. It is metaphysical nonsense to maintain that they show an unpatriotic tendency in disposing, as they do, in their resolutions, of the burning controversies of the hour.

"Questions relating to Governmental policy and administration," they say, "as, for instance, the tariff, civil service reform and the financial policy of the Government, we should make secondary and subordinate."

Denied the full exercise of their rights, and held in a state of ignorance which renders political polemics abstract, little could come from an organization among them which placed itself on a platform of economic purposes. What the negro needs is realized by his most intelligent representatives. It is knowledge, first, and the fair chance afterward to give it political force with the ballot. This end is to be gained through missionary work with the parties rather than affiliation, and the colored convention has laid the foundation for the work.

THE SCHISD GRIND. The Dakota editors seem to think unanimously that no one is in want in their great North and South States. They say that there is plenty to eat, if the people have an appetite for it. In the West, all things to the contrary are due to the envy, cupidity and ignorance of Chicago editors, who print communications from hungry farmers (who have no wheat to sell even at seventy-eight cents per bushel) without previously sending the said communications to the Transportation and Land Department of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

This controversy has been going on for twenty years in the country west of the hundredth meridian. It is a trial of strength between farmers with stomachs and railroad magnates without bowels. West of that 100th meridian the subsidized railroads have sold their lands ten feet deep. They offer it for \$10 per acre on the strictest terms of an installment plan, one dollar down, the balance in one or two dollars per acre in the following years.

A good crop the first year will enable the settler to make a second payment. The railroad company is glad; then there is a bad crop; not even seed is raised. The railroad furnishes seed for the next year free, on a risk; if that fails, the farmer is offered a free passage to Omaha, Kansas City or Duluth. He generally goes, if he is alive. Then the selling process begins again and the whole program is repeated. It is going on now in the Dakotas.

These "organs" are the organs of the railroad companies, the town-boat boomers and the agents of mortgage loan companies. Thousands of people will starve and die, other thousands will not starve, so they will stick it out for another year, and then get from the railroad company back in the spring. But the population will not decrease.

Other eager men and women will want to occupy 160 acres of earth. They will go to the sod shanties, the "shacks," and the side-hill caves abandoned by their predecessors and for awhile will rejoice that they "own" a farm. They will vote for subsidies and protection. Then they will go the same round. The States will survive. There will be Governors, Senators and Representatives, who will also protect railroads and wheat. And this is the survival of the fittest.

WHEN OUR EXTENDED and learned contemporary, the Nashville American, sets out to write headlines in French it does not mean that there is no such thing as a "denier resort." There is a *denier resort*, and what is more important, there is a plain English word which ought to be good enough for Tennesseeans.

PLEASE, MR. DEWEY, don't talk so much. You tell very laudable stories, but they are very witty and profound, as occasion requires; you make entertaining speeches and know the anatomy of oratory as well as you do the anatomy of volubility; but, withal, you make us so very tired.

THE MAYOR OF NEWARK, N. J., was so displeased with a portrait of himself, painted for a public collection, that when he saw the picture he walked up and kicked the face out of it. It is no uncommon for anyone to kick themselves, but it may not be bad policy to encourage such a practice.

OUR OFFICE BOY, who is the only person permitted to make puns around here, says he is glad John McNettigan, the Philadelphia letter-carrier, got drunk and threw his mail into the stove, because it opened the way to say that John McNettigan is a private life.

THERE WAS FITNESS OF THINGS when said that it was a man named Thane who said that the American Industrial and Shipping League yesterday that our shipbuilders in seeking legislative aid, are actuated not by motives of self-interest, but by patriotism.

THERE IS A FAME OF TWO-cent postage stamps in St. Louis and several wagon loads of mail were held over last night on account of it. There may be an excellent excuse for this, but it has not yet grown to a size making it visible to the naked eye.

THE LOS ANGELES people have decided not to hear Paul sing this season. Inasmuch as he was willing to take their town as a first payment and let them owe her the rest it seems that they are rather unreasonable people out there.

IN ANSWER to Mr. William C. Grunwald, who proposed the word "typewriter" to designate the person who uses the typewriting machine, the New York *Sun* says this will not do; that "the public and the best rhetoricians" will continue to

speak of typewriting men and of typewriting women in preference to the new-fangled word. But the public will do nothing of the kind. It will go on speaking of pretty typewriters, by which, of course, it will mean typewriting girls, and it will not bother itself with saying anything about typewriting men.

WE ARE NOT disposed to quarrel with the weather, but in opposition to grinding monopolies we must say that something ought to be done to keep Spring, Summer and Autumn from forming a combination to shut Winter out.

IT IS AN IDEAL REMEDY that with a good to anybody. The leeches along the Hudson are discouraged because the river does not freeze over, but the millions are justly dipping and saying nothing.

COLONEL HENRY WATSON is in New York, and still the people over there say if they wanted a world's fair, there seems to be no satisfying New York's greed for attractions.

A VALUED EXCHANGE says they wink at gambling in Chicago. If that is what you call winking, we should like to know what going it blind means.

THEY ARE HAVING such terrible floods in Oregon that if they could find the right sort of man in the State they would set him to building an ark.

NOW THAT DR. TALMAGE has returned, New York does not need a World's Fair.

COMING EUROPEAN WAR. The Brussels correspondent of the Paris *Matin* has just had an interesting interview with Major H. Girard, the officer of the engineer corps of the Belgian army who recently resigned his commission in order to go to write his somewhat startling pamphlet, "La Belgique et la Guerre Prochaine."

"The collision between France and Germany," said he, "may be retarded, but it is none the less inevitable. The possibility of a peaceful retrocession of Alsace-Lorraine by Germany is too absurd for discussion."

After stating that the interest of Belgium in the present situation was to become the ally of whichever one of the belligerents would offer the best terms, he declared that the Belgians were not without a word to write to the belligerents for a rapid mobilization, could not be ready to fight until long after the country could be invaded, occupied and traversed. Our retreating forces consists, at the maximum, of 120,000 men, including the militia. To hold Antwerp, with the development given to the front, would require 150,000 men, with at least 50,000 men, without counting the garrisons necessary at Liege, Namur and other places. What then would remain for us to offer battle with at any given point? And will we even be able to dispose of the 120,000 men? The answer is doubtful; for at the moment of the declaration of war, which will be sprung upon us in short order, how will our militia have time or possibility to rejoin their corps before being captured by the invaders?

"But," remarked the correspondent, "could not France and Germany come to blows without the necessity of fixing on Belgium for their battle ground?"

"It is impossible," replied Major Girard, "that the military chiefs of both countries should fully studied that matter, and from a strategic point of view, either of the belligerents that would neglect to take possession of the whole or a part of Belgian territory must compromise by the omission the result of utter defeat. My own conviction is that the concentration of the French and German armies will be effected on Belgian territory. For that concentration the Germans have five lines of railway capable of throwing in ten days 500,000 men.

"These 'organs' are the organs of the railroad companies, the town-boat boomers and the agents of mortgage loan companies. Thousands of people will starve and die, other thousands will not starve, so they will stick it out for another year, and then get from the railroad company back in the spring. But the population will not decrease.

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SOCIETY.

The White House is closed for all social entertainments until after Lent, as the President and Mrs. Harrison have decided not to so indulgently postpone the State dinner to have been given Thursday evening, the afternoon reception for tomorrow, the card reception Tuesday evening to the Army and Navy, but to omit as well the one to have been given to the public on the evening of the 18th instant.

The residence of the Vice-President will also be closed for the season, as the invitations for the dinner to-morrow evening and second card reception on Thursday evening have been received.

No Cabinet receptions will be held until after Lent.

Chief Justice Fuller, upon his return from New York yesterday, drove at once to the White House to make inquiries and leave a message of condolence for the Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Harrison returned yesterday from New York, where they have been since Sunday.

Miss Janet Halford left a few days since to join her mother at Thomaston, Ga., where she is slowly improving in health, recovering from the fatigue incident to the long journey.

Mrs. and Miss McLaren and Mrs. Lucas of St. Louis will receive on Thursdays in February.

Miss Kelley of Pittsburgh is the guest of Mr. Clapp at his residence on Vermont avenue.

The Misses Plympton are the guests of General and Mrs. Wm. H. Browne.

Mr. and Mrs. Cabell will give a reception at 9 o'clock this evening in honor of General and Mrs. John G. Black, who are staying at the Normandy.

Miss Annie Peachy will return Monday from a visit of several weeks to friends in Williamsburg.

Mrs. and Miss Bligh will entertain a few friends at dinner to-morrow evening.

Mrs. A. C. Tyler has invited a small three party for to-morrow night.

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RANDALL ALL RIGHT.

REPORTS OF HIS ILLNESS HAVE BEEN EXAGGERATED.

Wanamaker Exercises His Christian Influence on the Congressmen and Converts Him to Presbyterianism, but Not to His Political Views.

Reports concerning the condition of Hon. Samuel J. Randall have been so greatly exaggerated that this Court this morning resolved itself into a committee of investigation on the subject.

According to the statement of the family, Mr. Randall, so far from having recovered in his convalescence, lately, has been slowly on the mend all the time, and had it not been for the protracted business affairs and interviews with various members of Congress which monopolized his attention all day Wednesday, Mr. Randall would have been greatly improved by this time. The effect of his injudicious attention to business, however important, was naturally bad for the sick man and brought on an attack of prostration, from which he was pretty well exhausted yesterday.

SENATIONAL HUMORS. After the noon recess Mr. Carrington concluded his argument with the "honesty and candor" plea. He brought to the attention of the jury the fact that evidence presented had shown his clients to be connected with the laundry of certain wearing apparel in Baltimore, which charges were not cited in the indictment.

This evidence, he said, had been very carefully admitted by the court, and he was now presenting it to the jury. On this point the counsel made considerable stress, and he is still laboring with the argument.

OVERHEARD WIRES. Western Union Line in the Police Court for Striking Them.

Paul Connor, William Moore and Charles Rabbitt, three henchmen in the employ of the Western Union Telegraph Company, were charged in the Police Court this morning with stringing overhead wires without a permit. The Court was not familiar with the laws on the subject, and the case was therefore continued indefinitely, the personal conduct of the defendants being their appearance in Court being taken.

Mr. Connor testified that he was simply replacing the old wires with new ones, and that he had explained that the Commissioners had no power to grant a permit for stringing overhead wires. Congress, he said, however, made a law forbidding it, but he failed to observe a penalty.

LABOR PREPARING TO ORGANIZE. A Gigantic Alliance to Fight For the Eight-Hour Day.

Boston, Feb. 7.—A morning paper states, apparently on the authority of the leaders of the movement, that there is to be organized in this country, prior to the eight-hour strikes of May 1 next, a gigantic labor financial alliance within the ranks of the American Federation of Labor.

The organization of this alliance is said to be already well under way, although the matter has been kept as secret as possible. The leaders claim that labor organizations have practically given nothing but sentiment and the past is strewn with innumerable wrecks of labor associations, whose members had not learned that an empty pocket-book means hunger and cold.

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SILVER KINGS IN TOWN.

DISTINGUISHED MEN WITH IMMENSE BANK ACCOUNTS.

They Dig the Precious Metal from Mother Earth and Do Philanthropic and other Things With It—A Nevada Money Prince.

Moving about the corridors of Willard's and the Arlington any evening after dinner may be seen a group of distinguished men, sometimes alone or in couples or threes together, who are probably as well versed upon the silver question as any five men in the country. They have had all sorts of experiences with silver, from digging it with pick and shovel out of the mines to influencing legislation controlling the minting and coinage of it.

Probably the most prominent man of the quintette is ex-Governor Rutt of Colorado. He is a tall, ruddy complexioned man of about 50, well preserved and vigorous, both mentally and physically. He was in Washington as Postmaster General just after the war and later was appointed Governor of Colorado Territory by President Grant.

When that territory was admitted into the Union he was elected Governor. After the expiration of his term of office he met with a series of financial reverses and "went broke." Along in '78 he drifted up to Leadville and started digging for silver. He struck it rich when he located with Joe Watson, the celebrated "Morning Star," one of the richest of the carbonate mines of the district, which is now in the millions. Having plenty of money again, he came back to the States and was made chairman of the Republican State campaign committee of Colorado, after having been elected to the convention of '80 as one of the famed 306. During the subsequent campaign he worked like a beaver, notwithstanding his disappointment over the defeat of his old chief, making his influence and abilities felt all over the State in Garfield's favor. Contrary to general expectation he was not rewarded by the Administration when it came into power.

Another prominent figure in the group is Francis G. Newlands of Nevada. He is a son-in-law of ex-Senator Sharon of Nevada, and married into a family of fortune, which augmented his own ample means. He is an aristocratic looking man of about 40, clean-shaven face, auburn hair, and is a genial, open-hearted, all-around Westerner. He is a lawyer, a politician, a mining engineer, and can stir up the boys to enthusiasm at a mining camp political hustings or make a finished classical address to a crowded audience. United with these abilities he has the sagacious instinct to place a speculative dollar where it will return ten in real estate and mining schemes. He is thoroughly